

SMLACE INTERFACE

December 1987

SANTA MARIA/LOMPOC ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

DISK OF THE MONTH GAMES

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- DOS.SYS, DUP.SYS, MENU, AUTORUN.SYS: The DOS is Ataridos 2.5. This DOS has been released into the public domain by Atari so when you give it to your friends you don't have to wink and hand it over behind your back. The Autorun.sys file turns on basic and runs a basic program called Menu. You can rename any basic program you have to Menu and it will run on bootup. The menu program is the one that came on the disk. It is a simple menu that looks very similar to the one that now comes on Antic 4.0.

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- SIMON: As in "Simon Says" comes in four colors and you have to match Patterns.

- SPYPLANE: This is a good basic adaptation of a more commercial game.

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- BRAND: This is spy time ala James Brand. I didn't get a chance to play these adventure games to their conclusion so I can't tell you what the object is for each game, but then isn't that what gaming is all about.



IF you haven't reNEWed your S.M.L.A.C.E. membership yet, STOP POKEing around. PEEK into your wallet or checkbook for \$20.00, and SUBmit your reNEWal today. RESTORE our faith in you by mailing your dues to the P.O. Box address, or by paying at the NEXT General Meeting. Please NOTE the date in the upper right hand corner of the mailing label; it is your membership expiration date. SAVE time and possible ERROR by reNEWing now. IF you have alREADY taken care of this POINT, THEN thanks a lot! BYE

The SANTA MARIA LOMPOC ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS is an independent ATARI Computer Users Group.

Meetings are held the First Wednesday of Each Month at the Oak Knoll Bowl in Santa Maria, at 7:00 p.m.

Memberships include a Subscription to this Newsletter and free access to the Users Disk and Technical Library, and are \$20.00 / year

ALL correspondence including Articles and Exchange Newsletters should be addressed to:

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All advertising must be received by the 15th of the month to be included in the next month's newsletter

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CALENDAR of coming events

Wed. Dec. 2 - S.M.L.A.C.E. Meeting
Oak Knoll Round Table
Pizza Parlor 7 pm

Wed. Dec. 11 - ST SIG Meeting
COMPUTER CONNECTION
156F Union Old Orcutt

Wed. Jan. 6 - S.M.L.A.C.E. Meeting
To be announced

Wed. Jan. 13 - ST SIG Meeting
COMPUTER CONNECTION

SECRETARY'S REPORT

by Jim Keenan

The Santa Maria/Lompoc Atari Computer Enthusiasts held their monthly meeting at Oak Knoll Bowl on November 4th. The meeting convened at 7PM with 26 members present.

Steve Ramm announced that the December meeting will be held at Round Table Pizza (in the Oak Knoll Shopping Center). It will be "Family" night, with games, 10% discount on pizzas and of course the event of the year the raffling of the 520ST.

Mike Jacobsen gave a demo on "Tax Advantage" an outstanding program for those who do their own taxes. The program comes in both 8 and 16 bit.

Pat Collins won first prize in the raffle and chose the Tax Advantage program. Eunice Nowak won second prize and selected a disk notcher. Jim Keenan won third prize which was a disk of the month.

At the end of the regular meeting Jim Wooding of Computer Connection demonstrated one of his latest eight bit games.

PREZ SEZ

By Steve Ramm

Welcome to the Christmas month. For those of you who don't know what to give at this time of the year, just give what you've got to me. I promise to spend it, wear it out, break it, use it up, enjoy it lavishly or do whatever it is that would be necessary to fully use, utilize or realize the benefits of whatever it is you have to offer.

But please remember, my family has already given me the gift of humility (that is they are humiliating me all the time), my co workers have given me the gift of humbleness (they always say that anyone can do what I do and can probably do it better), I've given them the gift of patience (sit on it and wait, you'll get it when I'm done), my cars have shown me what a joy it is to be able to be ambulatory and in full health (an axle nut froze up and I had to walk five miles into town one early, brisk morning) and the list goes on and on (everyone is talking about a turkey day this month, man I must be lucky, I've had a turkey month with a turkey year in front of it). In all seriousness, the end of my year is looking good and I wish all of you out there a merry Christmas. I know whoever it is that's going to win the ST will be happy.

We have a Christmas disk in the Library that Antic put out about 1984. It's quite a production with music and animation and it is modifiable for your own messages. So if you



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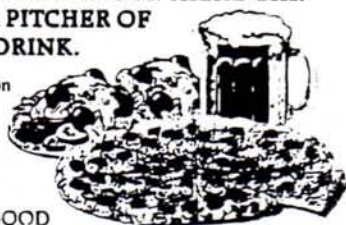
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want get it from the library, dress it up and send it to your friends. The december meeting is going to be held at Round Table Pizza just down from the bowling alley. It is going to be a social event, at least until the drawing is held... We are going to have a demonstration of Midmaze at the meeting, pizza of course, but bring your coupons.

We had a couple of more things going on but we talked about it more than two days ago, so I can't remember what it is. I know that we are going to have a door prize and of course all the programs that we raffle off will be available for sale. I believe Jim Wooding is going to bring things from his store. If there is something you need but haven't been able to get out to see him, then give him a call and he can bring it to the meeting.

At last count we (the two clubs had collected enough money to get the ST with a little left over for the two clubs. It would have been nice to have distributed a few more tickets but I'm happy that we did as well as we did. It certainly demonstrates that we are capable of putting on such an ambitious project. Although this is the only meeting that we have planned at the pizza restaurant the door is certainly open for more events there if we like it.

So if you like meeting there, let us know. Two things new are happening in January. We will start offering two Disk of the Month on a regular basis. For January we have a public domain drawing

program called MICROPAINT ARTIST on one disk (it takes both sides with all the programs and drawings that come with it) and MOVIE MAKER which was a Federation release in October 1987. This disk contains public domain "movies" made from a commercial program of the same name. Included on the disk is a run time version of the software to show the movies. This same commercial program was used to create the Antic Christmas disk. It's been around for awhile and has gone through several updates and is still available if you're interested.

Also in January we are going to inaugurate a new service. As you know membership in our club includes free access to the library, but most people don't avail themselves of this privilege because of the inconvenience. When we did copying at the meeting, although it was successful and generated interest, not only in the library but in the meeting, it also disrupted everything and the person who was doing the copying missed most of what went on in the meetings.

At our board meeting we decided to make copies of all the disks in our library in advance and sell these disks at the meeting for one dollar each. You can still make arrangements with the librarian, bring your blank disks over and get what you want copied for free or you can pay for the convenience of walking into a meeting and picking out what you want and walking out the door with

what you want.

I went through the Toys Us in Ventura recently and was surprised to see so many Atari games in stock. I was also surprised to see them trying to sell FROGGER for the price they wanted. I guess a lot of people want it if they can still ask \$35 for it. As for me it makes me creak a bit.

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ST stuff

by Mike Jacobson

Great news this month. If you already haven't noticed from the ad on the front page, there is a new computer store in the Santa Maria/Lompoc area. Computer Connection has moved from Jim's house to a location in Old Orcutt. Jim will be open for business in his new location starting Friday Nov. 27. Drop by, congratulate Jim and get in some early xmas shopping.

The ST SIG meetings will now be held in the Computer Connection store at the regular time of 7 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. So don't show up at Jim's house on Dec. 13th.

From the Midwest ST Atari Resource here are a few tricks with the right mouse button.

1. You can get rid of menus which drop down when you don't need them by pressing the right button, then (while holding it) press the left button.

2. You can select file(s) in inactive windows by holding the right button and then doing what you normally would with the left. This includes running, dragging to trash, using show info, etc.

3. If you have your windows sized so that the right scroll bar covers some of the file info (text display), you can press the right button, hold it, then press the left button and pull the rubber-band box down the scroll bar beside the desired files. If you do not need, then, press the left shift key and click on those files to deselect them.

Just In Case You Wondered...

Between Bruce, Michelle and myself you've heard a lot of things relative to members writing reviews or articles for this newsletter. Aside from our respective pleas in this issue, this will be the last time that your money is spent asking you to fill your newsletter. The decision has been made to issue a newsletter consistent with the size of our member's contributions. So, no more begging, no more pleading. From now on, you directly control the size of this publication.

All of which is well and good provided everybody understands what goes into writing an article. The real bottom-line is that it doesn't take much! So, just so that you can't say, "I don't know how", here's a little guideline to get you started...

Rule #1: Remember why you're writing it in the first place. The club benefits enormously from the experiences of others.

The absolute best thing you can do is to pass along your experiences as accurately and clearly as possible. That requires...

Rule #2: Get your thoughts organized. The best reviews are those which detail experiences from the moment you open the package to the time you turn off the machine a week later. The best bet is to make yourself a simple outline of the things that you think are the most important. Don't even worry about whether or not what you think is important will be important to others. If you think it's worth mentioning, mention it! Which brings us to...

Rule #3: Go nuts! If you think the opening screen is just great, let's hear about it! If you think the instructions are a piece of buffalo dropping, then say so! And don't be afraid to say how you think something could have

been done better. The computer after-market literally lives or dies based on consumer preference. You're a consumer so give 'em heck! Which brings us to...

Rule #4: Try to be as fair as possible. If what you expected is impossible, then it's hard to complain. But if what you expected is reasonable and falls within the price you paid for an item, you have every right to speak your mind. Once you've spoken, observe;

Rule #5: Don't dawdle! Upload it, mail it, pony express it, but make sure it gets here! I'll worry about the spelling and how it looks on the page. That's all there is to it, all you have to do now is follow...

Rule #6: Sit back and enjoy the fact that you've not only gotten your name in print, but that somewhere along the line you've helped someone who really needed it! [Ed.]



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SMPLACE



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